

THE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

A Global Race to the Top to Encourage Successful Democratic Transitions

Overview of the Task Force on Moldova

As co-chairs of the Task Force on Moldova (TFM), Under Secretary Jerzy Pomianowski of Poland and Senior Advisor Tomicah Tillemann of the United States traveled to Moldova on November 14-15 to discuss the Democracy Partnership Challenge application submitted by the Moldovan Government. The aim of the visit was to delve into the key areas as outlined in the Moldovan application, and identify ways that the TFM could specifically and tangibly address the needs of the government in Moldova. Under Secretary Pomianowski and Senior Advisor Tillemann met with government leaders, members of the international community that work in the country, and with members of civil society while on their trip. While in Moldova, the Task Force co-chairs highlighted the window of opportunity that exists for the international community to act, in conjunction with the government, in order to achieve real democratic gains. The co-chairs see synergies with the European Union's Eastern Partnership and the Moldovan government's banner "Rethink Moldova" campaign.

The Task Force on Moldova will serve as a multilateral coordinating mechanism for countries to provide support to Moldova as they enter the next steps in their democratic transition. The Task Force will fill a critical need by focusing attention on Moldova and highlighting areas to which the international community can channel resources. The Task Force will also act as a coordinating body for international assistance to Moldova, based on proposed areas in which the government of Moldova has requested support. Members of the TFM will have the opportunity to contribute resources or expertise, either monetarily or in kind, directly to the Government of Moldova on a bilateral basis.

Invitation letters to the first meeting of the Task Force on Moldova have been sent to all members of the Community of Democracies Governing Council, in addition to a number of other Vilnius Ministerial participant countries. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place in Washington D.C. at the Department of State on Tuesday, December 7th.

Next Steps

7 December

First Meeting of Taskforce for Moldova in Washington D.C.
(all members of the GC are invited)

The Task Force is planning to focus its efforts on the following areas and initiatives:

1. Strengthening local governance
2. Reforming the justice sector, including training for members of the judiciary
3. Creating a hub for local governments and civil society organizations to connect them with international assistance
4. Launching judicial reform roundtables with judges, media, and civil society to help combat public corruption

Other focus areas may include: implementing e-governance programs and addressing challenges associated with migration.

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